

EXHIBIT E

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

GOOGLE LLC,

Plaintiff

v.

SONOS, INC.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 3:20-cv-06754-WHA

Related to CASE NO. 3:21-cv-07559-WHA

REBUTTAL EXPERT REPORT OF DAN SCHONFELD, Ph.D.

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115. Limitations [9.2] through [9.7] overlap substantially in substance and are not met by the Accused Products for the same reasons. Dr. Almeroth does not provide any additional bases for infringement of those limitations that differs from the evidence provided for Limitations [1.5]-[1.10]. Therefore, it is my opinion that those claim limitations are not met for the same reasons that Limitations [1.5]-[1.10] are not met.

116. ***The Accused Products Do Not Meet the “storage” Limitations of Claims 1 and***

2.

117. Dr. Almeroth provides no evidence that the Accused Devices “caus[e] storage of the first zone scene” or “caus[e] storage of the second zone scene.” Dr. Almeroth opines in his Opening Report that the Accused Products carry out a sequence of operations including “transmitting that generated ‘join group’ message to each of the Accused Google Players in the ‘speaker group,’ which causes each of the Accused Google Players in the “speaker group” to join the ‘speaker group’ and store data defining the ‘speaker group’ (e.g., by causing the Accused Google Player to persistently store at least the UUID and name of the ‘speaker group’ in a ‘GroupConfig’ data structure, which is sometimes referred to by Google as a ‘prefs file,’ and by also causing the Accused Google Player to store additional information about the ‘speaker group’ in volatile memory on the device), and also (iv) storing group information for the ‘speaker group’ in the Accused Google Controller’s volatile memory.” Almeroth Op. Rep. ¶448. Dr. Almeroth therefore concedes that much of this information is not stored, but merely held temporarily in “volatile memory,” which is not persistent memory and not storage in this context. The only information Dr. Almeroth alleges is stored persistently is “the UUID and name of the ‘speaker group’ in a ‘GroupConfig’ data structure.” *Id.* But the UUID and speaker group name are not a “zone scene” because they contain no information about group membership. This information

does not provide an identification of speakers within the group. With the UUID and speaker group name alone, the system cannot display the speaker group on a display because the membership is unknown. Accordingly, this information does not constitute the claimed “zone scene” and is not stored.

118. The “storage” limitations of claim 9 overlap substantially in substance and are not met by the Accused Products for the same reasons. Dr. Almeroth does not provide any additional bases for infringement of those limitations that differs from the evidence provided for the storage limitations of claim 1. Therefore, it is my opinion that those claim limitations are not met for the same reasons that the limitations of claim 1 are not met.

3. [1.10]-[1.11] / [9.7]-[9.8]

119. The Accused Products do not, “based on the third request, caus[e] the first zone player to transition from operating in the standalone mode to operating in accordance with the first predefined grouping of zone players such that the first zone player is configured to coordinate with at least the second zone player to output media in synchrony with output of media by at least the second zone player.”

120. As described in Section IX, to the extent that an accused “zone player” can or does “operat[e] in a standalone mode in which the first zone player is configured to play back media individually,” this is no longer the case once the accused “controller” receives “a first request to create a first zone scene.” Rather, as described in detail *supra*, any accused speaker added to a speaker group immediately begins operating as a member of the group, for example by playing music or not playing music, which varies based on the current operation of the group. Therefore, any such speaker does not operate in the accused “standalone mode” as claimed.

121. Accordingly, the Accused Products do not “transition from operating in the standalone mode to operating in accordance with the first predefined grouping of zone players”

178. In addition to the non-infringing alternatives set forth in my Opening Report, it is my opinion that Google could also have made minor changes to its grouping feature to avoid meeting the “zone scene” element. As the Court held in the summary judgment order, to the extent a “common theme” is required by the term “zone scene,” the user must be able to name a group, and abstract or random names would not meet such a claim element.

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The question, then, is simply **whether a user's ability to name speaker groups** means that the user can group speakers according to a common theme. The answer is yes.

This conclusion also aligns with the basic purpose of the invention, which is to allow users to pre-save customized speaker groups and later “invoke” the named group on demand (*see, e.g., id.* at 9:15–20; fig. 6). **The name serves to allow the user to remember the theme that binds a particular set of speakers.**

Google briefly objects that **its users can name speaker groups something “completely abstract or random”** such as “A,” “B,” and “C” (Opp. 7). In other words, Google argues that it should escape infringement because the Accused Products allow users to make speaker groups that are not bound by a thematic name. **This only shows, however, that Google's products have capabilities in addition to those recited by the claim.** This does not avoid infringement.

Dkt 309 at 8.

179. Accordingly, Google could restructure the ability to group speakers to have any such speaker group assigned an abstract identifier, such as a color, a letter of the alphabet, or a picture that was (or was not) selectable by a user. Similarly, Google could limit the permissible group names to numbers, which could also preclude those groups from meeting the “zone scene” limitation. These are merely examples of different random or abstract names that could avoid infringement under the Court's summary judgment order because they do not meet the requirement of a “common theme.”

180. Furthermore, removing the ability for a user to select a name could avoid infringement under the Court's summary judgment order. Automatically assigned names would not meet the requirement of a “common theme” because such names would not necessarily identify any “location” or “purpose” of the speaker group. While they might be memorable to a user so that the user could later identify the correct speaker group and play music from that speaker group, the group name itself would not convey meaning to a user of the speaker system.

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181. In my opinion, based on their scope, each of these changes would individually take Google minimal time to implement, and the time for quality assurance would likely match the other design-arounds that I discussed in my Opening Report. Further, because each of these solutions would allow a user to associate a speaker group name with a particular set of speakers (albeit without “zone scene” or “common theme” information associated with such a name), these solutions would match users’ expectations and enable the current level of functionality that users expect and receive from their Google devices.

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DATED: January 13, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Schonfeld", with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Dan Schonfeld, Ph.D.